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STAT

AMERICAN WOMAN ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF SPYING FOR LIBYA

BERN, SWITZERLAND (UPI) -- AN AMERICAN BARMAID CALLED "THE MATA HARI OF BERN" WAS ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF SPYING FOR THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OF COL. MOHAMMAR KHADAFY, SWISS AUTHORITIES SAID TODAY.

JUSTICE MINISTRY SPOKESMEN SAID U.S. CITIZEN ALEXANDREA LINCOLN WILL BE TRIED SOON FOR ALLEGEDLY PASSING SENSITIVE POLITICAL INFORMATION TO MOHAMMED ABDEL MALEK, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT THE LIBYAN EMBASSY IN BERN.

MALEK ALREADY HAS LEFT SWITZERLAND, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID.

MS. LINCOLN, 30, AN ATTRACTIVE BLONDE, WORKED FROM THE SUMMER OF 1980 THROUGH THE SPRING OF 1981 AS A BARMAID AT THE BELLEVUE PALACE, A LUXURY HOTEL NEXT DOOR TO THE SWISS PARLIAMENT.

THE HOTEL IS OWNED BY THE SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

SWISS REPORTERS SAID MS. LINCOLN WAS A GREAT FAVORITE OF POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS CROWDING INTO THE BAR AFTER PARLIAMENTARY SESSIONS.

ONE SWISS NEWSPAPER NICKNAMED HER "THE MATA HARI OF BERN" AFTER THE FAMOUS DUTCH SPY WHO WORKED FOR GERMAN INTELLIGENCE DURING WORLD WAR I. MATA HARI, WHOSE HER REAL NAME WAS MARGARET GERTRUDE ZELLE, WAS EXECUTED IN 1917.

APART FROM CONFIRMING MS. LINCOLN'S ARREST AND FORTHCOMING TRIAL, SWISS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DECLINED FURTHER DETAILS ON HER CASE. HER HOMETOWN IN THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY KNOWN.

PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, OFFICIALS DISCLOSED THAT MS. LINCOLN, BEFORE ARRIVING IN BERN, WORKED BRIEFLY AS A TELEPHONE OPERATOR AND BARMAID AT AN HOTEL IN ASCONA IN THE SOUTHERN ITALIAN-SPEAKING PART OF SWITZERLAND.

SHE MOVED TO THE SWISS CAPITAL IN THE SUMMER OF 1980 AND WORKED AT THE BELLEVUE PALACE UNTIL SHE WAS DISMISSED THE FOLLOWING SPRING. THE HOTEL DECLINED TO GIVE THE REASON FOR HER DISMISSAL.

MS. LINCOLN REMAINED IN BERN, GETTING A JOB AS TELEPHONE OPERATOR AT A BRANCH OF THE SWISS CREDIT BANK, CREDIT SUISSE, AND ALLEGEDLY CONTINUED TO PASS ON INFORMATION TO MALEK.

SHE WAS ARRESTED MAY 18, 1982, OFFICIALS CONFIRMED, AND WAS THEN RELEASED PROVISIONALLY PENDING CONCLUSION OF THE INVESTIGATION WHICH INCLUDED THE QUESTIONING OF POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS.

SWISS NEWSPAPERS REPORTED EVIDENCE WAS DISCOVERED SHOWING THE WOMAN RECEIVED AT LEAST 14,000 SWISS FRANCS, THE EQUIVALENT OF \$7,000, FROM MALEK.

SHE ALSO HAS A 4-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER NAMED CASSANDRA, THE NEWSPAPERS REPORTED. NEITHER MS. LINCOLN'S MARITAL STATUS NOR THE LOCATION OF HER DAUGHTER WAS IMMEDIATELY KNOWN.